

Appendix D

Special-Status Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species that may Occur in the Project Area

Appendix D. Special-Status Fish and Wildlife Species that may Occur in the Project Area

Species Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Status ¹	Distribution	Habitat	Potential of Occurrence in Project Area	Proposed for Evaluation in the EA
	Fed/State				
Birds					
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	PR/CE, FP	Nests in Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Tehama, Lake, and Mendocino Counties and in Lake Tahoe Basin; reintroduced into central coast; winter range includes rest of California, except southeastern deserts, very high altitudes in Sierra Nevada, and east of Sierra Nevada south of Mono County	In western North America, nests and roosts in coniferous forests within 1 mile of a lake, reservoir, stream, or ocean.	May occur as transient visitor during migration or winter. No known nests in vicinity of Project area.	No
Long-eared owl <i>Asio otus</i>	–/CSC	Lowlands throughout California where appropriate habitat exists	Riparian bottomlands grown to tall willows and cottonwoods; belts of live oak paralleling stream courses. Requires adjacent open land productive of mice and the presence of old nests of crows, hawks, or magpies for breeding	Suitable habitat present in lower reach of Project area. CNDDDB includes sightings in vicinity.	Yes
Swainson’s hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	–/CT	Lower Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, Klamath Basin, and Butte Valley; highest nesting densities occur near Davis and Woodland, Yolo County	Nests in oaks or cottonwoods in or near riparian habitats. Forages in grasslands, irrigated pastures, and grain fields.	Suitable habitat present in lower reach of Project area. CNDDDB includes sightings in vicinity.	Yes

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	Fed/State				
Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	–/CSC	Permanent resident in Central Valley from Butte County to Kern County; breeds at scattered coastal locations from Marin County south to San Diego County, and at scattered locations in Lake, Sonoma, and Solano Counties; rare nester in Siskiyou, Modoc, and Lassen Counties	Nests in dense colonies in emergent marsh vegetation, such as tules and cattails, or upland sites with blackberries, nettles, thistles, and grainfields. Habitat must be large enough to support 50 pairs. Probably requires water at or near nesting colony.	Suitable habitat present in lower reach of Project area. CNDDB includes sightings in vicinity.	Yes
Western burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i>	–/CSC	Lowlands throughout California, including Central Valley, northeastern plateau, southeastern deserts, and coastal areas; rare along south coast	Level, open, dry, and heavily grazed or low-stature grassland or desert vegetation with available burrows.	Suitable habitat present along haul route. CNDDB includes sightings in vicinity.	Yes
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	C/CE	Nests along upper Sacramento, lower Feather, south fork of Kern, Amargosa, Santa Ana, and Colorado Rivers	Wide, dense riparian forests with a thick understory of willows for nesting; sites with a dominant cottonwood overstory are preferred for foraging; may avoid valley-oak riparian habitats where scrub jays are abundant.	Suitable habitat present in lower reach of Project area. No CNDDB occurrences.	Yes

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	Fed/State				
Reptiles					
Giant garter snake <i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T/CT	Central Valley from vicinity of Burrel, Fresno County, north to near Chico, Butte County; has been extirpated from areas south of Fresno	Sloughs, canals, low-gradient streams and freshwater marsh habitats where there is a prey base of small fish and amphibians; also found in irrigation ditches and rice fields; requires grassy banks and emergent vegetation for basking and areas of high ground protected from flooding during winter.	Suitable habitat present in lower reach of Project area. No CNDDDB occurrences.	Yes
Northwestern pond turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	–/CSC	Northwestern subspecies occurs from Oregon border of Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties south along coast to San Francisco Bay, inland through Sacramento Valley, and on western slope of Sierra Nevada Southwestern subspecies occurs along central coast of California east to Sierra Nevada and along southern California coast inland to Mojave and Sonora Deserts; range overlaps with that of northwestern pond turtle throughout Delta and in Central Valley	Occupies ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation canals with muddy or rocky bottoms and with watercress, cattails, water lilies, or other aquatic vegetation in woodlands, grasslands, and open forests. Occupies woodlands, grasslands, and open forests; aquatic habitats, such as ponds, marshes, or streams, with rocky or muddy bottoms and vegetation for cover and food.	Suitable habitat present in lower reach of Project area and along haul route. CNDDDB includes sightings in vicinity.	Yes

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	Fed/State				
Amphibians					
California red-legged frog <i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	T/CSC	Along coast and coastal mountain ranges of California from Marin County to San Diego County and in Sierra Nevada from Tehama County to Fresno County	Permanent and semipermanent aquatic habitats, such as creeks and cold-water ponds, with emergent and submergent vegetation. May aestivate in rodent burrows or cracks during dry periods.	Outside species' known range. No suitable habitat found in Project area.	No
Fish					
Central Valley fall/late fall-run chinook salmon <i>(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)</i>	C/–	Currently spawn in the Merced, Tuolumne, Sacramento, and Stanislaus Rivers.	Ocean and freshwater rivers and streams.	Found in Project area.	Yes
Central Valley fall/late fall-run chinook salmon critical habitat	C/–				No
Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon <i>(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)</i>	T/CT	Sacramento River and tributaries downstream to and including San Francisco Bay to Golden Gate Bridge.	Ocean and freshwater rivers and streams.	Found in Project area.	Yes
Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon critical habitat	PX/–				No

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	Fed/State				
Central Valley steelhead critical habitat	PX/–				No
Central Valley steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T/–	In the Central Valley, most of the native, natural steelhead production occurs in upper Sacramento River tributaries below Red Bluff Diversion Dam, but these populations are nearly gone. The American, Feather, and Yuba Rivers have naturally spawning populations but have had hatchery influence in the past. The stock in the Yuba River currently receives no hatchery plants and is managed as a naturally sustained population.	Ocean and freshwater rivers and streams	Found in Project area.	Yes
Delta smelt <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	T/–	Delta estuary from Suisun Bay upstream to the Delta cross channel on the Sacramento River and south along the San Joaquin and Middle River to the south end of Bacon Island	Estuarine areas with salinities below 2 grams per liter; spawns in freshwater	No documented occurrences in Project area.	No
Green sturgeon <i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	C/–	Widely distributed in salt water; freshwater in lower reaches of large rivers from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system north	Estuaries; spawns in fresh-water	Suitable habitat exists in Project area.	Yes
Invertebrates					

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	Fed/State				
California linderiella <i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	—/—	Throughout Central Valley where appropriate habitat exists.	Seasonal pools in unplowed grasslands with old alluvial soils underlain by hardpan or in sandstone depressions. Water in the pools has very low alkalinity, conductivity, and total dissolved solids.	No suitable habitat in Project area.	No
Conservancy fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E/—	Endemic to the grasslands of the northern two-thirds of the Central Valley.	Inhabit large, astatic pools located in swales formed by old, braided alluvium; filled by winter/spring rains, last until June.	No suitable habitat in Project area.	No
Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool	—/—				No
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle critical habitat	X/—				No
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T/—	Streamside habitats below 3,000 feet throughout Central Valley	Found in riparian and oak savanna habitats with elderberry shrubs; elderberries are host plant.	Suitable habitat present in lower reach of Project area and along haul route. CNDDDB includes sightings in vicinity.	Yes
Vernal pool fairy shrimp critical habitat	X/—				No

Species Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Status ¹	Distribution	Habitat	Potential of Occurrence in Project Area	Proposed for Evaluation in the EA
	Fed/State				
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T/–	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, central coast mountains, and south coast mountains.	Inhabits small, astatic clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	No suitable habitat in Project area.	No
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp critical habitat	X/–				No
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>Lepidurus packardi</i>	E/–	Central Valley from Shasta County south to Merced County	Found in vernal pools and ephemeral stock ponds.	No suitable habitat in Project area.	No

Notes:

Species listed in table are generated from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service project species list (Appendix C) and CNDDDB records (CDFG 2007).

CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database.

EA = Environmental Assessment.

¹ Species Status:

Federal

E = Listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

T = Listed as threatened under ESA.

X = Designated critical habitat.

PX = Proposed critical habitat.

C = Candidate for listing under ESA.

PR = Protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

– = No federal status.

State

CE = Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

CT = Listed as threatened under CESA.

CSC = California species of special concern.

FP = Fully protected under California Fish and Game Code.

– = No state status.

Special-Status Plant Species that may Occur in the Project Area

Species Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Species Status ¹			Distribution	Preferred Habitats	Flowering Period/Period Identifiable	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area	Proposed for Evaluation in the EA
	Fed	State	CNPS					
Brandegee's clarkia <i>Clarkia biloba</i> <i>ssp. brandegeee</i>	–	–	1B.2	Northern Sierra Nevada foothills in Butte, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer and Yuba Counties	Chaparral and cismontane woodland, often on roadcuts (950–3000 ft msl)	May–July	Suitable habitat along haul route in Project area. CNDDDB includes one occurrence in Project area.	Yes
Dwarf downingia <i>Downingia pusilla</i>	–	–	2.2	Central Valley and South America	Vernal pools and mesic valley and foothill grasslands (1,500 ft msl)	March–May	No suitable habitat in Project area.	No
Legenere <i>Legenere limosa</i>	–	–	1B.1	Primarily in lower Sacramento Valley, also from north Coast Ranges, northern San Joaquin Valley, and Santa Cruz Mountains.	Deep, seasonally wet habitats such as vernal pools, ditches, marsh edges, and river banks (below 500 ft msl)	May–June	No suitable habitat in Project area.	No

Notes:

Species listed in table are generated from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service project species list (Appendix C) and CNDDDB records (CDFG 2007).

CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database.

CNPS = California Native Plant Society.

ft = feet.

Msl = above mean sea level.

¹ Species Status

– = not listed.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

1B = CNPS List 1B—rare or endangered in California and elsewhere

2 = CNPS List 2—rare or endangered in California, more common elsewhere
